February 29, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,729,827, issued March 17, 1998 entitled "PAGER WITH STATION SWITCH REQUEST", naming Wong et al. as inventors; U.S. Patent Application No. 08/609,978, filed on February 29, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,613,212, issued March 18, 1997 entitled "PAGING METHOD AND APPARATUS", naming Wong et al. as inventors; and U.S. Patent Application No. 09/259,417, filed on December 9, 1997, entitled "PAGING METHOD AND APPARATUS", naming Wong et al. as inventors. Each of the disclosures of these applications is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety for all purposes.

In the Claims:

[Please cancel claims 1-26.

[Please add the following new claims 27-45:]

27.   A method of communicating data in a data communication system, the data communication system including a communication controller and a plurality of nodes, the method comprising:

transmitting a first signal from the communication controller to at least one network node including a first node, the first signal including information relating to a specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller;

when the first node has data to transmit, and upon receipt of the first signal, transmitting the first request signal from the first node to the communication controller, said first request signal including a request for a first portion of bandwidth to be allocated to the first node for transmitting data from the first node to the communication controller;

in response to the first request signal, transmitting a second signal from the communication controller to the first node, said second signal including information specifying at least one timeslot allocated to the first node for transmitting data to the communication controller; and

in response to receiving the second signal, transmitting data from the first node to the communication controller.

28.   The method of claim 27 further comprising transmitting data from the first node to the communication controller at a timeslot specified by the second signal.

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